

December 20, 2002

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NVS-215  
2002 DEC 31 P 1:39  
OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Safety Assurance  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

02V-340 ① of ④

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On December 19, 2002, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2002 and 2003 model year Honda GL1800 motorcycles. The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5.

573.5(c)(1)

**Name of manufacturer:** Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (HAM)

**Manufacturer's Agent:** William R. Willen  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.5(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda GL1800	Certain 2002 model year	1HFSC470*2A113565 ~ 1HFSC470*2A113582
	Certain 2003 model year	1HFSC470*3A200001 ~ 1HFSC470*3A200960
		April 16 to May 3, 2002

**Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:**

The bank angle sensors of the affected motorcycles were installed using the wrong size screws. The recall population was based on manufacturing records and includes all vehicles assembled after a process change that led to the incorrect size screws being used. The sensors of the vehicles before and after the affected vehicles were installed using a different process.

573.5(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:**

660

573.5(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** 2%

573.5(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

**Summary**

The bank angle sensor was installed with incorrect screws and could loosen and eventually detach from its mount. If the sensor detaches, the engine will stop unexpectedly.

**Detail**

The subject vehicles are equipped with a bank angle sensor that is designed to shut off the fuel pump and the engine electrical power in the event the motorcycle falls over. The sensor uses a weighted pendulum damped by an oil-based liquid to detect banking angles.

The bank angle sensor was installed incorrectly with 4mm screws instead of the specified 5mm screws. The incorrect fasteners will not hold the sensor, and it can eventually detach from its mounting point. If the sensor is not held in an upright position, the engine will stop unexpectedly. Sudden loss of engine power, especially while turning, may cause a crash.



5mm Screw  
Correct Size



4mm Screw  
Incorrect Size

573.5(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

Oct. 11, 2002	AHM received a dealer report of a problem with the bank angle sensor. AHM issued a report of this occurrence to HMC and HAM.
Oct. 14, 2002	HAM initiated the investigation.
Dec. 17, 2002	HAM completed the investigation.
Dec. 19, 2002	HMC determined that a safety-related problem exists.

573.5(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

The owners of all affected vehicles will be notified by mail and asked to take their motorcycle to an authorized Honda dealer. The dealer will check the screw size and, if necessary, install replacement screws of the correct size, free of charge.

573.5(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** Dec. 23, 2002

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to dealers:** Dec. 20, 2002

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** Dec. 23, 2002

573.5(c)(9)

**Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:**

A copy of the dealer service bulletin will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.5(c)(10)

**Proposed owner notification letter submission:**

A draft of the owner notification letter is enclosed.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke

Enclosure

December 2002

**IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

**DRAFT**

02V-340 ④ of ④

Dear Gold Wing Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

**What is the reason for this notice?**

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2002 and 2003 model year Gold Wings (GL1800). Your motorcycle is equipped with a bank angle sensor designed to shut off the fuel pump and the engine electrical power in the event the motorcycle falls over. The bank angle sensor was installed incorrectly with 4mm screws instead of the specified 5mm screws. The incorrect fasteners will not hold the sensor, and it can eventually detach from its mounting point. If the sensor is not held in an upright position, the engine will stop with no warning. Sudden loss of engine power, especially while turning, may cause a crash.

**What should you do?**

Call any authorized Honda motorcycle dealer and make an appointment to have your motorcycle repaired. The dealer will inspect the mounting screw size and, if necessary, install screws of the correct size, *free of charge*. Please plan to leave your Gold Wing for a day to allow the dealer flexibility in scheduling.

**Who to contact if you experience problems.**

If you are not satisfied with the service you receive from your Honda dealer, you may write to:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
Motorcycle Customer Support  
Mail Stop 100-4W-5B  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

If you believe that American Honda or the dealer has failed or is unable to remedy the defect in your motorcycle, without charge, within a reasonable period of time (60 days from the date you first contact the dealer for a repair appointment), you may submit a complaint to:

Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Or call the toll-free Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236.

**What to do if you feel this notice is in error.**

Our records show that you are the current owner of a 2002 or 2003 GL1800 involved in this recall. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is not correct, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

**If you have questions.**

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with locating a Honda dealer, please call Motorcycle Customer Support at (800) 289-8226. You may also visit our Web site at [www.hondamotorcycle.com](http://www.hondamotorcycle.com) and click on "find a dealer" to locate a Honda dealer who can assist you.

**Lessor Information.**

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days. Lessor means a person or entity that is the owner, as reflected on the vehicle title, of any five or more leased vehicles.

We apologize for any inconvenience this campaign may cause you.

Sincerely,  
**AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.**  
Honda Motorcycle Division